

February 24, 1976

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have the five minutes. I'm going to try, as rapidly as I can, to answer all of the charges by the various Senators. Senator Chambers is the leader today. He set the pattern and the tone of the whole Legislature. After him he got the Oracle from Grand Island, Senator Kelly. He talked about a shell game, that this was the Governor's shell game. Well you know, Senator Kelly, when the Governor made his message here about a month ago he talked to this Legislature and he talked to them something that goes back to what President Ford tried to tell the United States Congress and Thomas Payne, he talked about common sense. The common sense he talked about, Senator Kelly, was that this Legislature in the remainder of the days that they had, the remainder of the 60, would probably do enough self-destruction to itself and to the state that he might have to call it back in special session to save the state. That's what he did.

Senator Kelly, you represent 30,000 people who say they want you down here, your League of Municipalities, your County Commissioners. I don't think my people are that great for that. I'm not sure my people want to send me down here for the County Commissioners to give an extra \$5 million. You must have great County Commissioners and League of Municipalities. That must be the hot-seat of the League down there in Grand Island, it's surely not in my area. Our people feel safer when the Legislature is in session, does its business for a million and a half people, and then go back to their other jobs, which is most necessary to save the people from a lot of destruction that this Legislature can cause.

Senator Chambers again and again told you that the only reason that we are to be out of session is so that the Governor can have time and that we're all lackies that we will have to stand up and dance jigs for him and do this and that, which is the most erroneous thing that's possible. It's this Legislature that puts itself of the problems the first time.

In answer to Senator Frank Lewis, you bet you the educators want us here on a yearly basis. They've got real gems. They've got bills that they've got to have money to support with. Why they'll have Senator Lewis' scalp if he doesn't keep this on a yearly basis.

Also with Counselor Luedtke, it's necessary that the educators and the lawyers and all the friends of the people be represented on a yearly basis. Senator Chambers said "That silly populace and that foolish populace". Are you going to follow Senator Chambers this morning and call your 30,000 constituents, Senator Kelly, that they're foolish and that they're silly? I don't think so. I'm surprised at the big guns here today, Senator Schmit, Senator Chambers, Senator Kelly and Senator Leudtke, would come forward and try to fool the people again by saying that the silly populace and the foolish populace are not capable, are not intelligent enough to vote on this question in November. You know the people already are excluded from voting on taxes in certain areas in this state. Do you further want to exclude them and keep them outside the door by saying that they do not have the innate intelligence to vote if this Legislature shall be in session for a limited amount of days, 120 days.